**Governor’s Council on Homelessness**

**Louisiana Housing Corporation Building**

**Committee Room #2**

**July 19, 2018**

The Governor’s Council on Homelessness met on Thursday, July 19, 2018, in Committee Room #2 of the Louisiana Housing Corporation Building located at 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Ms. Nicole Sweazy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. Following introductions, the secretary recorded the roll.

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**Members Present:** Ms. Nicole Sweazy, Ms. Michell Brown, Ms. Angela Patterson (representing Ms. Martha Kegel), Mr. Chip Coulter, Ms. Kia Sims, Ms. Amanda Larkins, and Ms. Antiqua Hunter

**Members Absent:** Ms. Alex Juan (excused), Ms. Leslie Grover, Mr. Joshua Hollins, Mr. Dylan Waguespack

**Staff Present:** Mr. Gordon Levine and Ms. Gay Owens, recording secretary

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A quorum was established and the meeting opened for business.

The council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting of April 19, 2018. Ms. Patterson offered a motion to accept the minutes, as written, seconded by Ms. Kia Sims. Without discussion or objection, the council members approved the minutes.

Ms. Sweazy opened the meeting with discussion of the council report. Other topics discussed included:

1. The council making available funding awards to assist persons experiencing homelessness within Louisiana.
2. A new diversion Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) pilot program is established. After completing this successful program, select areas within the state will be included to enlarge the project.
3. The award of ten United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers to assist veterans experiencing homelessness in the Lake Charles, LA area.
4. The council serving as a Rating and Ranking Committee for grant applicants. The council members participating in last years’ committee shared the accomplishments of the process.
5. Ideas for legislation for the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session.
6. A funding grant available to assist victims of domestic violence.
7. A decrease of persons experiencing homelessness in Louisiana since 2011.
8. Opportunities for the council to assist in the Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) program.
9. Seeking out persons experiencing homelessness and establishing a “one spot” integrated system so they will be able to activate all necessary medical and housing agencies.
10. Students experiencing homelessness in their community and the issues involved due to housing shortage, unaccompanied youth dealing with sexual orientation, lack of transportation, vaccinations, and having the option of commuting to their original school district.

The next Governor’s Council on Homelessness, scheduled for October 18, 2018, in Committee Rooms One and Two at the Louisiana Housing Corporation located at 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Sweazy declared the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.